



Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IS ALWAYS ON THE JOB!

Important Numbers

Non-Emergency
703-777-1021
703-777-0445

Poison Control
1-800-222-1222

Animal Control
703-777-0406

Narcotic Tip Line
703-779-0552

Crime Solvers
703-777-1919

Administration
703-777-0407

Traffic Hotline
703-771-5798

EMERGENCY- 911

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Vacation Safety

by LCSO Crime Prevention Unit

As we enter the summer season many of us will be looking forward to our summer vacations. To help make your vacation a safe and positive memory here are some tips for those heading out of town.

- Take a close look at the hotel you may be staying at during your vacation. Check with local law enforcement about the neighborhood and the hotel.
- If you are renting a condo, be sure to check on crime stats for the neighborhood. Check to see if the neighborhood has changed since you were there last.
- Check local crime stats for any unusual activity or recent crime trends that you and your family should be aware of.
- Keep in mind that criminals will often target tourists. Be mindful of your surroundings, especially at night.
- Utilize in hotel safes and lockboxes. Your valuables can be easily removed while maids and cleaning services are cleaning the rooms.
- If you travel abroad be sure to make copies of all of your required documents. IE: Passport, Travel Vouchers, Airline Tickets, Travelers Checks, US Identification Cards. Keep this copy in a safe location in case the originals are stolen.
- Be sure to check in with the US Embassy to let them know where you are staying so they can contact you in case of an emergency.
- Check the Department of State web-site for any security warnings about where you may be visiting.
- Have a plan if you have to leave in a hurry. Know how to get to the embassy, airport, train station, or port on your own. Buy or download an English language map of the area you will be visiting.
- Keep a small amount of local currency on hand in case of an emergency.
- Research local customs and rules.

A small amount of planning can really go a long way toward a successful vacation.



Alert Loudoun

One of the best ways to keep informed about what may be happening in your community is through Loudoun County's Alert Loudoun System.

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Theft from Vehicles

Theft from vehicles continues to be an ongoing trend in our county. Here is what you can do to help prevent them.

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FACEBOOK:
www.facebook.com/loudounsheriff

TWITTER:
<http://twitter.com/loudounsheriff>

Please LIKE us on FACEBOOK and follow us on TWITTER!

Alert Loudoun

by LCSO Crime Prevention Unit

One of the best ways to keep informed about what may be happening in your community is through Loudoun County's Alert Loudoun System. Alert Loudoun is a free service that citizens can subscribe to and get free information sent to an email address or smart phone. Information that citizens can enroll to receive includes:

- Weather Alerts
- Traffic Alerts
- School Closings
- Neighborhood Watch
- LCSO Daily Activity Reports
- Government Information
- Press Releases

Alert Loudoun was a primary source of information for many citizens during the recent power outages. While many citizens were without power, they still received valuable information via their cell phones through Alert Loudoun.

To subscribe to Alert Loudoun go to **www.loudoun.gov** and click on the Public Safety Icon on the right side of the page. Alert Loudoun is the first choice on the Public Safety page.

Remember
When in doubt – CALL IT IN!
703-777-1021

Theft from Vehicles

by LCSO Crime Prevention Unit

The theft of electronics, monies, and others items of value from vehicles is a problem in every corner of the county.

Here are a few reminders to keep your new items safe:

- Never leave any electronic items visible in your vehicle. Almost any electronic item has value.
- Taking items inside is the best bet. Even if someone searches through your car your item will still be safe.
- Remove cords when you remove your devices. Cords identify what devices you may have. Thieves use this information to come back later and see if you left it behind.

If you see anything suspicious
CALL IT IN!
 You are the eyes and ears for your community.

Non-Emergency:
703-777-1021



Identity Theft

by LCSO Crime Prevention Unit

Summer vacations and travel will have many people using their credit cards and possibly their identification in areas outside the usual places. Whether you are renting a car or paying for dinner at that beach-side restaurant, identity thieves will be around looking for their opportunity.

To help combat and reduce the chance of being a victim of Identity Theft here are a few quick tips for summer time travel.

1: Be sure not to leave behind credit card receipts. Older credit card systems still print out the whole credit card number on receipts.

2: Hold on to all your vacation receipts and check them off your statement as they clear your bank or credit card company. This may take weeks due to the high volume of credit card transactions during the summer. Any unusual transactions should be reported immediately.

3: If traveling abroad, use travelers checks not your credit cards. Credit Card numbers are commonly exploited overseas.

4: If your ID or Drivers License is photocopied at a hotel or other business be sure to get the copy back when you check out.

5: Before you leave on vacation write down all the toll-free contact numbers for your credit cards. That way if they are stolen you can immediately report it.

6: ID cards, credit cards, and passports should never be left behind in a hotel room. Use the hotel room safe or the safe offered behind the registration desk.

A small amount of prevention can really go a long way in preventing Identity Thieves.

10 Tips to Prevent Burglaries

by LCSO Crime Prevention Unit

We are in the midst of the time of year that burglars are more active in our area. With the warmer weather, busier schedules, and summer vacations, potential burglars are looking for easy targets.

To help prevent your home from being chosen here are a few tips from our experts:

1: Never leave windows open or unlocked when you are not at home. The average burglary lasts 8-12 minutes from the time they make entry to the time they leave the scene. Even the shortest trip to the store or to pick up the kids puts your home at risk.

2: Make sure your doors are also locked when you leave your home. An unlocked door is the most common entry method for burglars. If you are not sure if your locks are up to par, give the crime prevention specialists a call. We do free home security inspections.

3: Be careful what you put out for trash pick-up. Boxes for expensive items such as televisions or gaming systems, are a sign to burglars that there may be other expensive items in the home. Do not advertise!

4: If you have an alarm system **USE IT!** It is a layer of your home's total security. Having one and not using it is a bad choice. The few seconds it takes to set it can make all the difference.

5: Burglaries are not typically random. Burglars like to know what may be in the house before they break in. If you notice suspicious persons milling around the neighborhood or that same suspicious vehicle keeps

appearing on your block, **CALL IT IN!**

6: If you are going on a trip or will be away for more than one or two days, arrange to have a trusted neighbor pick up your mail and newspaper. Nothing says "Nobody's Home" like a mailbox full of mail and papers lying in the driveway. Do not place a "hold" on your mail with the Post Office. This information goes into a computer database and that information could become compromised.

7: Secure your valuables inside your home. \$10,000 worth of jewelry in a jewelry box on top of the dresser is not secure. Expensive jewelry or family heirloom jewelry should be in a safety deposit box at a bank. If you can't afford a safety deposit box, purchase a fire rated lock box. Hide this box somewhere other than the master bedroom closet..... yes, we know that's where you have yours now. Move it to a place where burglars are least likely to look. Basement closet, bottom of the pantry behind the potatoes, be creative. Make a burglar work for the expensive things.

8: Document all of your expensive items. Jewelry and electronics are the most stolen, so start with these. Accurate description, serial number, model number, and take a few pictures of the item. These simple steps increase the probability of getting the item back when it is recovered.

9: Get to know your neighbors. A community that knows one another will identify suspicious activity much faster. Knowing what is routine and normal is key to identifying the criminal activity.

10: Burglaries most often happen between 6am and 6pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Rarely do they happen at night. Keep an extra eye on your neighborhood during these key times.

FAQ's

by LCSO Crime Prevention Unit

Do you have a crime prevention question?

Is there something you have always wanted to ask a law enforcement officer but never had the opportunity?

Well, here is your chance!

Feel free to send your questions to:

DFC James Spurlock at
james.spurlock@loudoun.gov

or

DFC Nathan Payne at
nathaniel.payne@loudoun.gov/